

13
TO HIS GRACE

1424

LIONEL

R. Sackville (L. C.) Duke of Dorset

Duke of DORSET,

Lord Lieutenant General, and General
Governour of the Kingdom of
IRELAND.

THE HUMBLE

PETITION

OF

Truth, Virtue, and
Liberty.

DUBLIN:

Printed in the Year M,DCC,LIV.

Alaric

TO HIS GRACE

LEONARD

Duke of DORSET,

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ral Governor of the Kingdom of

IRELAND



PETITION

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...from the Experience we had of Your Grace's
...kindness towards us, we were then
...about with our

THE HUMBLE

...and with this, the Lord
...of Heaven and in
...and undisturbedly follow
...and roughly encouraged.

P E T I T I O N

...from the kind Words, and Joy
...Your Grace's Communion at meeting
...upon the Epitaph we were in the Month
of September 1731, and ever since that we still hold the
same place we formerly had in your Grace's Good-will
and Affection, and will be as ready to follow
not to follow, but to follow in the proper Or-
der of your Honour's Commands to this Day.

O F

...and your unwearied efforts by every means that Good-
nature could dictate, and power could perform, but to improve and
...to our former well-being, but to improve and

Truth, Virtue, and Liberty.

...to your Honour's Commands to this Day.

S H E W E T H,



H A T your Petitioners being invited and
encouraged by Your Grace, attended you
to this Kingdom in the Month of *Septem-*
ber, 1731, when by Your Grace's Re-
commendation and Influence, we were
kindly received and entreated, and before

Your Departure in the Month of *May, 1736,* had been
provided with a tolerable Settlement, and were seem-
ingly in a thriving and prosperous Condition.

That after Your Grace's Departure, though at differ-
ent Conjunctions, we met with sundry little Rubs and
Discouragements, yet we continued tolerably in the
Main, maintained our Credit and supported ourselves in
Dignity to the great Emolument of the Publick, till the

Year 1749, when in Spight of our united Efforts, and all the Power and Interest we had, we met with an unexpected Blow, that greatly disconcerted us, and gave us such Apprehensions of our own Danger, that we were at the Point of resolving to leave the Land, and to return to our Native Country, had not our Hopes been again revived by Intimations providentially conveyed to us, that Your Grace was soon to return to the Government of this Kingdom.

That from the Experience we had of Your Grace's favourable and kind Intentions towards us, we were then induced to resume our Functions, and to labour with our wonted Vigour and Assiduity to diffuse thro' the Land those Blessings which by the Decrees of Heaven are intailed to us, and indefeasably follow wherever we are cultivated and properly encouraged.

That your Petitioners from the kind Words, and Joy that appeared in Your Grace's Countenance at meeting us on the Shore to welcome your Return in the Month of *September 1751*, are duly sensible that we still hold the same Place we formerly had in your Grace's Good-will and Affections, and it would be the foulest Ingratitude not to acknowledge that you have upon every proper Occasion in the Course of your Administration to this Day, used your unwearied Efforts by every means that Good-nature could dictate, or Power compass, not only to restore us to our former well-being, but to improve and make it better.

That however your Petitioners are obliged to represent, and to deplore, (from what unhappy Fatality we cannot precisely say, or care not here to explain) That Your Grace's kind and generous Dispositions for our Advancement and Welfare, have in a great measure been frustrated and defeated, and that our Influence instead of improving and extending to the Good and Happiness of this Kingdom, as we hoped and expected it might, is daily and sensibly decaying, and our very Being threatened with Destruction by the unruly Sons of Violence, Faction and Sedition.

That

That in Obedience to Your Grace's express Orders and Commands, delivered to us from time to time, we have constantly attended the Assembly of the Estates of this Kingdom, and faithfully endeavoured to regulate and compose their Debates, for which we were upon several Occasions very imperiously treated, with Language not only ludicrous, but opprobrious and scurrilous, upon some Occasions thrust out, and not allowed a Seat, and maugre all our Efforts to win, sooth, and reconcile, were never able to procure a Majority in our Behalf, except in one Instance, and that only by a single Voice.

That your Petitioners at Your Grace's Desire have attended also at the Theatre, and other Places of publick Resort, and have scarce during this whole Winter been treated any where with common Decency, but at the former in particular with such Outrage and Contempt upon one Occasion, that if by prudent Foresight we had not made a timely Retreat, and escaped under Cover of the Ladies Hoops, we were in Danger of being buried in the Ruins of the House.

That we are at present so suspected and odious, that we can scarcely appear any where but at Church or at Council, where indeed we have always, thanks be to God, a great Majority of Friends: That if we attempt to walk the Streets, as we did lately in company of some Merchants going to wait upon your Grace with an Address, we are insulted with Groans and Hisses: That if we go in Coaches or Chairs, infamous and scurrilous Libels are thrust into our Hands: So that we are obliged to live like Prisoners of State shut up within the Precincts of the Court. That whatever Habit we assume, whatever Garb or Character we appear in, it is all the same, we are traduced, scoffed, and insulted, not only by the Mob, but by many in higher Ranks, who ought to be forwardest to protect and encourage us, and in this aggravate their Immorality by Ingratitude, because from the Services *We* did their Ancestors, they derive both their Honours and Estates. And what may recommend our Case still more to your Grace's Compassion is this, that the few Friends who have appeared in our Vindication, are awed and terrified with horrid Imprecations,

and Threats of Vengeance: That we have made serious Remonstrances to our Enemies upon this Head, and argued with them frequently the Indecency and Iniquity of such Measures: Called upon them to prove what it was in our Conduct that was faulty: What we had attempted to do, or had done to hurt the Publick: What Crime we had been guilty of against the State: In what we had offended any serious, sober, and true Friend of the Community: But our Remonstrances avail not, still they go on railing and abusing in the same Strain, uttering the most palpable Falshoods, in Terms shocking and offensive to every modest Ear.

That Instances of this Sort have been so common, it would be needless to enumerate them, especially as our Enemies are at no Pains to cloak or conceal them, not only impudently and barefacedly avowing them, but maliciously and wickedly blowing and trumpeting them thro' the Nation by that common Sewer of Sedition and Faction, the *Universal Advertiser*. That indeed the Principals and Leaders do pretend to say, that they have no Hand in these Proceedings, but your Petitioners humbly conceive they are not therefore acquitted, because it is well known that the least cheque from them would prevent this Grievance, and it would be easy to prove that they are so far from doing this, that they have upon many Occasions publicly ridiculed Your Grace's Proclamation, design'd to redress it, and insolently bid Defiance to all Authority by opposing to it the Bowers and Privileges of Juries.*

That these our Enemies observing that by our Mildness and Moderation, our prudent and peaceable Demeanor, their Designs to banish or destroy us, have hitherto failed of effect, they have for several Months past by various Falshoods attempted to sow Discord between us, and disunite us, and to persuade the World, if they could, that our younger Sister *Liberty* had declared for them, and been frequently seen at their Meetings: Whereas it is notorious, and we appeal to all the World, to all who have the least Knowledge or Acquaintance of us, that we keep soberly at home intent upon our proper Business, that we mix in no riotous Assemblies, that we are never seen drunk or reeling about the

* See Pat. Queries 97.

the Streets at unseasonable Hours, nor stir abroad one without the other: And that the Person who has been seen at their Meetings, is none other than a Common Prostitute, picked up in the Streets, and dressed and entertained, with design to impose upon the Publick; and who by her lewd and dissolute Behaviour, hath given full Proof that she is a Cheat and Impostor.

That Your Petitioners have another Sister, by a second Marriage of our Father, called *Loyalty*, who during the Life of our Step-mother, a Woman naturally haughty and imperious, was a little froward and pettish, and often assumed Airs that did not become her, but finding upon the Death of her Mother aforesaid, that our Power and Interest in the Family was greater than her's, she soon became affable and good humoured, and has now for many Years lived with us, in the strictest Amity and Concord. That however, by what Means we are quite Ignorant, she is now grown disreputable and utterly disagreeable to the Publick, and we dare not so much as take her abroad with us in the few Excursions we make, nor even own that we have such a Sister. That we are sometimes inclined to think that the general Dislike taken to her, is owing only to the Oddity of her Dress and Apparel, which having not been changed for five or six Years last past, is at present quite unfashionable, whence we are induced to intercede with Your Grace, that she may be provided with a new Suit against our next publick appearance, when we will venture once more to introduce her, that we may judge with Certainty whether this our Suspicion be well or ill grounded.

That Your Petitioners being informed that Your Grace intended soon to leave this Kingdom, and from Your own native Generosity and Benevolence, as well as by the Advice of your Council, had determined to leave us behind you, we have been induced thus humbly, and briefly to represent to You our Grievances, and our Danger, and to implore such Redress for past Sufferings, and such Security for future Protection and Support, as to Your Grace in Your Wisdom shall seem meet.

That

That though after being long Your Grace's Domesticks, we have thence derived many and great Advantages, that Your Grace may not think us petulant and forward in our present Suit, we beg Leave with all Humility to remind Your Grace, that even from this Consideration there flows a reciprocal Obligation, and Your Grace we doubt not will acknowledge, that from our Attendance upon Your Person, and watchful Care of Your Affairs, large Returns of Esteem, Honour and Applause have followed You, and have given You a Name that will be ever illustrious in the Annals of this Kingdom, and that we Promise on our Parts faithfully to attend and perform the sacred Duties of our Function, and trust by the Blessing of God upon our pious Labours, to be the Instruments of reconciling and uniting the Hearts of this divided and infatuated People, in Love and Amity to one another, and in peaceable Submission to the Government of the *Best of Princes*, and to the Administration of the mildest and best of Governors.

And Your Petitioners, as in Duty bound, will ever Pray.

Dublin, March
26th. 1754.

That Your Petitioners being informed that Your Grace intended soon to leave this Kingdom, and that Your own native Generosity and Benevolence, as well as by the Advice of your Council, had determined to leave us behind you, we have been induced thus humbly, and briefly to represent to Your Grace our Grievances, and our Danger, and to implore such Redress for past Sufferings, and such Security for future Protection and Support, as to Your Grace in Your Wisdom shall seem meet.

